(b) whether it is also a fact that the CBI was asked to enquire into the scandal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the present position with regard to the investigations into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Oil Coordination Committee conducted a special audit of the accounts if the oil companies for movement of petroleum products including Bitumen. The special audit conducted by OCC revealed irregularities in transportation of Bitumen in various regions of the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As advised by CBI, the oil companies concerned have been asked to conduct a detailed enquiry and lodge formal complaints, if criminal offence is made out, with local branches of CBI where the records arc available. The concerned oil companies have initiated action accordingly.

**Oil transported by HPCL**

403. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of oil being transported by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited within Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada Sector;

(b) the transport costs being incurred presently by HPCL for moving oil in this sector; and

(c) the projections for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The quantum of petroleum products transported by the oil industry, i.e. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and IBP Company Ltd. within the Visakhapatnam—Vijayawada Sector during the period April, 1996 to March, 1997, is given below:—

| Mode of Transport | Quantity in Million Metric tonnes |
|---|---|
| By rail | 1.041 |
| By road | 0.741 |
| TOTAL | 1.782 |

(b) The transportation costs incurred by the Oil Industry for moving petroleum products in this sector during the period April, 1996 to March, 1997 are given below:—

| Mode of Transport | Cost Incurred |
|---|---|
| By rail | 60.27 |
| By road | 48.18 |
| TOTAL | 108.45 |

(c) The projections for 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:

| Year | Movement (in Million Metric tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1998-99 | 2.666 |
| 1999-2000 | 2.812 |

**Effect of Insurgency on ONGC Operations**

404. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of ONGC has suffered serious set-back in Nagaland, Tripura and Assam due to insurgency;

(b) if so, the effect on ONGC operations in each of these States;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Assam, besides the extremists, the Village